

RECREATIONAL SURVEY OF STEELHEAD CREEK

Accessibility to the Area

A. Boat. Creek can be reached by boat through south entrance to Big Salt Lake. Caution should be heeded on entrance to the lake; strong tidal currents may make navigation hazardous. Best times for entering the lake are high and low water slack. (High tide in Big Salt is delayed 2 hours from outside waters.)

The waters from Klawock to Big Salt Lake are protected, which makes navigation possible by any size skiff.

B. Vehicle. As of September, 1973, a logging road will be open to the public, crossing steelhead Creek approximately 2 miles from the mouth. Road can be traveled by any vehicle.

C. Aircraft. Charters can be made from Ketchikan; "Coastal Air" makes daily runs to Klawock and Craig.

D. Foot. No foot trails are available at this time leading to the stream.

Fishability of the Area

Creek can be fished from the banks but not without some difficulty due to dense patches of salmonberry and devils club that hug the waters edge. Lower one-half mile banks were steep and undercut in places providing poor fishing sights. In the first mile the occurrence of gravel bars were sparse. Although gravel bars did coincide with good fishing pools.

Shallows in the first mile of the stream were limited; above first mile shallow areas became more frequent.

STEELHEAD CREEK cont.

Again dense patches of salmonberry and devils club with intermittent windfall areas make walking difficult. Approximately 1 mile above mouth of creek, wading sights become more frequent thus making travel easier.

Aesthetics

No spectacular views were observed in first 1 1/2 mile surveyed. Approximately 2 miles from mouth the stream passes through a series of ridges covered by spruce, providing a high canopy near pools, which made fishing spots quite scenic.

Proximity to Other Recreational Areas

With the advent of the Big Salt Road opening this creek can be readily reached from Klawock or Craig. Other good fishing spots are in proximity that could provide alternatives, eg. Black Bear Creek and Thorne River.

Present Use

Fishing history of this creek is unknown. We sighted little evidence of past fishing, ie. no trails or litter.

Facilities. A Forest Service cabin is located on Big Salt Lake less than 2 miles from the creek.

Sport Fishery

Species Present: pink, silver, chum salmon, Dolly Varden, cutthroat, and a reported steelhead run.

At the time of this survey, first week of August, pink and chum salmon and Dolly Varden were observed. Pink salmon ^{were} witnessed in all pools.